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to Prof. A. N. Prentiss, of Cornell University, who has kindly responded as follows:]

Perhaps the last week in June would be the most satisfactory time for observing the floral character of Watkins Glen. I have myself visited the place but once, and speak of it from my acquaintance with similar localities, rather than from personal observation. The Southern extremity of all the lakes in Central New York is surrounded by hills from 400 to 800 or more feet in height, in which deep ravines have been worn by the descending streams. These ravines are characterized by a succession of waterfalls and cascades, rocky ledges and high cliffs. In places they are extremely narrow, but again widen out into broad amphitheatres. The sides are sometimes sloping and covered with a peculiarly luxuriant vegetation; at other times they rise into perpendicular walls 200 to nearly 400 feet in height. Nooks and recesses abound where the sun never shines, and where the air is cool and damp the whole summer through. In such places a few plants are found which properly belong to a more northern region. They are doubtless the lingering representatives of the flora which characterized this latitude during the later portion of the glacial epoch. Perhaps the most interesting of these plants is the pretty little *Primula Mistassinica*, Mchx., which abounds in the ravines at the head of Crooked and Cayuga Lakes, and probably occurs at Watkins. A few individuals of this species have for ages maintained a foothold in those glens, quite separated from their congeners, which for the most part abound from Labrador to the Rocky Mountains and northward to the Arctic circle. *Pinguicula vulgaris*, L., usually accompanies *Primula*. *Sisymbrium canescens*, Nutt., abounds at Watkins, there being only one other known station in the State. The floral character of the Fall Creek ravine at Ithaca, known as the Gorge, is quite as peculiar and interesting as that of the Glen at Watkins.

23. Destruction of Spruce Trees.—In the *Tribune* of April 1st, is a notice of Mr. Verplanck Colvin's Report to the New York Legislature on the Adirondack Wilderness. Mr. Colvin is reported to say: "During this day's march through the forest [in the vicinity of Cedar River] we remarked with wonder, that almost all the majestic spruce timber was either fallen and decaying or standing dead, so penetrated with dry rot and decay as to be crumbling to pieces. The same timber, only a few years since, was apparently sound and valuable. Now the lands . . . will probably not command ten cents an acre. This sudden decay of the forest is a most important matter to the owners of timber lands thereabouts, and deserves the attention of the botanist." This observation was made last August. Mr. Colvin does not state whether the decay was common to both the White and the Black Spruce, or was confined to the latter.

In 1871, Mrs. L. A. Millington, of Glens Falls, discovered that a minute *Arceuthobium*, a plant of the Mistletoe family, was destroying the Black Spruce in the Adirondacks and adjacent country.

Her observations on the habits of the plant including the manner of its dissemination may be found in our pages (Vol. II. Nos. 11 and 12., Vol. III. No. 12.), and notes on the subject by Drs. Gray and Parry in the *American Naturalist* for 1872. Mr. Chas. H. Peck, of Albany, also discovered the plant, but subsequently to Mrs. M., and gave an account of it in a *Report* quoted in our BULLETIN (Vol. III. No. 4.). The parasite would seem to have become unusually abundant of late years. It is very important to learn its anterior history.

24. Seasonable Hints.—Watch the various *Willows*; gather the catkins of both sorts, and mark the bushes so as to get the leaves later in the season. As the willow is dioecious, every variety should be represented by four pieces, staminate and pistillate catkins, and corresponding twigs with leaves well developed and if possible with stipules.—*Carices* are now appearing, and are much needed for the Catalogue.—Get some pollen of *Calla* (*Richardia Æthiopica*) and examine the contents of the pollen granules, burst or crushed in water, to see the movements of the fovillæ.

SMILACEÆ.

SMILAX, Tourn.—*S. rotundifolia*, L.; common; N. Y.: var. **quad-angularis**; Staten Island, *Allen*.—*S. glauca*, Walt.; not uncommon; New Jersey, Long Island, Staten Island, &c. *S. herbacea*, L.; common; N. Y.: var. **pulverulenta**; flats east of Greenpoint, *T. F. A. & W. H. L.*

LILIACEÆ.

TRILLIUM, L.—*T. erectum*, L.; N. J. *Torr. Cat.*; near Norwood and Tappan, *Austin*; Preakness, *Fischer*; Glen Cove, *Coles*; Lawrenceville, *Ruger*, Westchester Co., *Pooley*. *T. cernuum*, L.; Closter, common, *Austin*; Preakness, *Fischer*; N. R. R. of N. J., opposite Hudson City, *Ruger*; Westchester Co., *Fischer*; Long Island, Newtown, common, *Ruger*; Glen Cove, *Coles*.—*T. erythrocarpum*, Mchx.; New Durham Swamp, *Torr. Cat.*; Long Island, *Coles*.

MEDEOLA, Gronov.—*M. Virginica*, L.; common; N. Y.

MELANTHIUM, Gronov., L.—*M. Virginicum*, L.; not uncommon in low grounds; Hackensack Flats; Staten Island; Keyport, *Brown*; Yonkers, *Pooley*; Closter, *Austin*. A variety with much broader leaves, and, I believe, otherwise different, occurs in upland woods and thickets in Orange Co., *Austin*.

VERATRUM, Tourn.—*V. viride*, Ait.; common; N. Y.

HELONIAS, L.—*H. bullata*, L.; near Freehold, Monmouth Co., N. J., *Lockwood*. Vid. Vol. II., § 38.

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The Club meets regularly the last Tuesday of the month in the Herbarium, Columbia College, at 7½ P.M.